

Mary Hannah Mearman

Isle of Wight County Press 24 January 1914

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MRS. MEARMAN.---We regret to record the death of Mrs. Mary Hannah Mearman, wife of Mr. Alexander Mearman, of St. John's Lodge, who passed away on Sunday morning last at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, whither she had been removed on the previous Sunday to undergo an operation. The operation was successfully performed, and the patient appeared to be making satisfactory progress when pneumonia supervened. Against this the deceased battled very bravely, and everything that medical skill and perfect nursing could do for her was done, but she gradually sank, the end coming very peacefully as before stated. The late Mrs. Mearman, who was in her 75th year, was held in warm regard by all who had opportunities of observing her estimable qualities as exercised in private and social life. She was deeply attached to St. Thomas's Church, and she attended the evening service there only a fortnight before her death. She was especially interested in Dorcas work*, and she will be much missed in that sphere of benevolent effort. In the month of September, 1912, she and her husband celebrated their golden wedding, and in a paragraph which appeared in our columns at the time about the happy event mention was made of a memorable incident which took place in the days of Mrs. Mearman's girlhood, when she was living with her parents at Palmer's Brook. She and her sister—striking looking girls—were in the road one afternoon when Queen Victoria passed in her carriage. They attracted Her Majesty's attention, and she sent an equerry to the house to ask if they would attend at Osborne on the following day, as the Queen would like to sketch them. They duly went to Osborne, where they "sat" to Her Majesty. The visit was repeated on a subsequent day, when the Queen completed what were described as very excellent likenesses of these highly-favoured young "subjects." The deceased suffered a severe bereavement during the South African war, a son, who was a non-commissioned officer in the 5th Lancers, dying at Ladysmith during the siege, and she never quite recovered from the shock thus caused. A most affectionate wife and mother, her death is felt as an irreparable loss by those who were nearest and dearest to her. The deepest sympathy of all is extended to the bereaved family, and in an especial manner does it go forth to the stricken husband, who, with the burden of over 80 years weighing upon him, is bereft of one who was the devoted partner of his life for upwards of half a century. The funeral took place on Wednesday, the first portion of the service being at St. Thomas's Church (where she had worshipped for nearly 50 years), and the interment was at Newport Cemetery, the Rev. J. L. Spratt officiating. Those attending were the husband, Messrs. Alex., Richard, and John Mearman (sons), Miss E. Mearman and Mrs. W. D. Hutton (daughters), Mrs. Alex. Mearman and Mrs. J. B. Mearman (daughters-in-law), Mr. Frank Rashley (brother), Mrs. Emily Hayles, Skinners (niece), Messrs. Percy, Walter, and Herbert Hollis (nephews), and

Mr. W. Scott, East Cowes. Mr. W. D. Hutton was prevented by illness from attending. There were many beautiful floral tokens.

Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2022

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>

** What was the work of Dorcas in the Bible?*

Tabitha, called Dorcas in Greek, was known for her good works and acts of charity. She was a generous person who sewed for others and gave to the needy. She was probably a widow. She was also called a disciple of Jesus, that is, a follower, one who learned from him, part of the inner circle in the early church.

<https://www.thriventcharitable.com>